

IN THE CLAIMS

*Please amend claims 4, 12, 16, 18-26, 28, 31, 50, 51, 54, 57, 59, 60, 62-67 70, 73, and 74 as follows.*

Q2

4. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Q2

12. A process for determining whether a compound inhibits IL-17-like polypeptide activity or production comprising exposing a host cell according to Claim 5 to the compound and measuring IL-17- like polypeptide activity or production in said host cell.

Q3

16. An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

18. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 67 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is asparagine or glutamine.

19. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 69 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is arginine, lysine, glutamine or asparagine.

20. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 94 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is serine, alanine or cysteine.

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21. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 96 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is serine, alanine or cysteine.

22. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 101 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is valine, isoleucine, leucine, phenylalanine, alanine or norleucine.

23. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 104 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is serine, or threonine.

24. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 129 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is serine, alanine or cysteine.

25. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 140 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is serine, alanine or cysteine.

26. A polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the amino acid at position 186 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is serine, alanine or cysteine.

Q5 28. An antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds the polypeptide of claim 14.

Q6 31. A method of detecting or quantitating the amount of IL-17 like polypeptide using the anti-IL-17 like antibody or fragment of claim 27.

50. A hybridoma that produces a selective binding agent capable of binding a polypeptide according to claim 1.

Q7 51. A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

Q8 54. A polypeptide comprising a derivative of the polypeptide of claim 13.

Q9 57. A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

59. A viral vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

Q10 60. A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of claim 13 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

62. A method for treating, preventing or ameliorating a medical condition comprising administering to a patient the polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, and SEQ ID NO: 10 or the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

Q11 63. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:

(a) determining the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, and SEQ ID NO: 10 or the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a sample; and

(b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide.

64. A device comprising:

(a) a membrane suitable for implantation; and

(b) cells encapsulated within said membrane, wherein said cells secrete a protein of claim 13, and wherein said membrane is permeable to said protein and impermeable to materials detrimental to said cells.

65. A method of identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide comprising:

(a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 13 with a compound; and

(b) determining the extent of binding of the polypeptide to the compound.

66. A method of modulating levels of a polypeptide in an animal comprising administering to the animal the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

67. A transgenic non-human mammal comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

70. The method of claim 69 wherein said molecule is the selective binding agent of claim 32.

73. A method of inhibiting undesirable interaction of IL-17 receptor like polypeptide with IL-17E ligand comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a molecule capable of inhibiting binding of IL-17 like polypeptide to IL-17 receptor RB-2 or RB-3, wherein said molecule is the selective binding agent of claim 32.

74. A method of antagonizing the activity of an IL-17 like polypeptide comprising administering an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 14 or an IL-17 like polypeptide selective binding agent, small molecule, antisense oligonucleotide, peptide or derivatives thereof having specificity for IL-17 like polypeptide.